

Message Text

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TAGS: EAGR, CA

SUBJECT: CANADIAN WHEAT SITUATION

PASS AGRICULTURE FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY BELL

REF: (A) OTTAWA 2675: (B) OTTAWA 2764: (C) BELL/JEAN TELCON

1. ONLY SYSTEMATIC ESTIMATE AVAILABLE TO DATE OF WHEAT PRODUCTION IN THE WHEAT BOARD AREA WAS DONE BY UNITED GRAIN GROWERS. THEIR ESTIMATE OF 511 MILLION BUSHEL BELIEVED CONSERVATIVE BY POST BASED ON CONTINUING REPORTS OF WIDE-SPREAD GOOD TO EXCELLENT GROWING CONDITIONS. SOME AREAS ARE GETTING DRY, RECENT PRESS REPORTS PLAY UP THE DETERIORATION OF CROP IN SASKATCHEWAN, HOWEVER, STILL TOO EARLY TO TERM CROP FAILURE. YELDS IN SASKATCHEWAN ARE NOW PREDICTED TO BE AVERAGE RATHER THAN ABOVE AVERAGE.

2. POST ESTIMATES 1975 PRARIE SPRING WHEAT PRODUCTION AT 580 MILLION BUSHEL. ONTARIO WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION OF ABOUT 20.5 MILLION BUSHEL BRINGS TOTAL CANADA WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST TO ABOUT 600 MILLION BUSHEL.

3. SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION BALANCES:

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1974-75 1975-76
1,000 METRIC TONS

PRODUCTION	14,221	16,340
BEGINNING STOCKS	10,497	8,365
EXPORTS INCL. FLOUR	11,000	11,335
FOOD	1,863	1,870
FEED	2,390	2,300
SEED WASTE, ETC	1,100	1,000
ENDING STOCKS	8,365	8,200

STATISTICS CANADA WILL ISSUE ITS FIRST ESTIMATES OF AREA
AND PRODUCTION ON AUGUST 29, 1975.

4. SALES OF WHEAT TO THE USSR AND CUBA WERE REPORTED
IN REFTELS A AND B. THESE SALES WERE FOR TWO MILLION
LONG TONS OF CWRS 1 AND 2 (74.6 MILLION BUSHEL) AND FOR
ONE MILLION LONG TONS OF DURUM (37.3 MILLION BUSHEL).
PART OF THE FIRST SALE WILL GO TO CUBA EITHER AS WHEAT OR
FLOUR.

5. ON BASIS OF ELEVEN YEAR SERIES RUNNING FROM 1963/64 THE
AVERAGE ANNUAL EXPORTS OF WHEAT AND WHEAT EQUIVALENT OF
FLOUR (EXCL. DURUM) TO THE USSR AND CUBA WERE 95.5
MILLION BUSHEL. ASSUMING A GOOD QUALITY HARVEST THIS YEAR,
OR ALTERNATIVELY A WILLINGNESS BY THE USSR TO BUY SOME
LOWER QUALITY OLD CROP WHEAT, CANADA COULD SELL ANOTHER
MILLION TONS THIS YEAR. HOWEVER, HEAVY FOOD AID COMMITMENTS
AND SERVICING OF USUAL COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS AS WELL AS EMERGING
RELUCTANCE OF FARMERS TO RUN STOCKS DOWN AND ENDEMIC TRANSPORT-
ATION PROBLEMS WILL LIKELY LIMIT FURTHER WHEAT SALES TO THE
USSR.

6. SOVIET PURCHASE OF ONE MILLION LONG TONS OF DURUM (37.3
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MILLION BUSHEL) REF B FAR EXCEEDS ELEVEN YEAR AVERAGE OF
5.8 MILLION BUSHEL (INCLUDING CUBA) OF CANADIAN ORIGIN.
EXPORTS TOTALED 19 MILLION BUSHEL IN 1971-72 AND 15.7 MILLION
BUSHEL IN 1972-73.
JOHNSON

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